

Amendments to the Specification:

At page 1, line 3 please add the following heading and subheading as shown below:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**1. Field of the Invention**

At page 1, line 6, please add the following headings, subheadings and paragraphs as shown below:

2. Description of the Related Art

WO 0114250 describes a process for preparing silicon nanoparticles, in which, in a first step, a halosilane is reduced with a metal in a solvent in order to form a first reaction mixture which comprises a metal halide, amorphous silicon and halogenated silicon nanoparticles. Since the amorphous silicon is obtained as a by-product in this process, details thereof are not described. Rather, the object of working up this first reaction mixture in three further process steps is to recover the silicon nanoparticles. The solvents proposed are various types of glycol ethers, possibly in a mixture with an apolar solvent. “Amorphous” refers to solids whose molecular building blocks are not in crystal lattices, but rather arranged randomly. Amorphous silicon (a-Si) can be prepared substantially less expensively than crystalline silicon and thus constitutes a material for which there is a great demand.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

At page 1, line 10, please add the following paragraph and heading as shown below:

According to the invention, the object specified is achieved in a process of the above type by using an apolar solvent as the solvent.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT(S)

At page 1, line 14, please delete the following paragraphs as shown below:

Such a process is known. For example, WO 0114250 describes a process for preparing silicon nanoparticles, in which, in a first step, a halosilane is reduced with a metal in a solvent in order to form a first reaction mixture which comprises a metal halide, amorphous silicon and halogenated silicon nanoparticles. Since the amorphous silicon is obtained as a by-product in this process, details thereof are not described. Rather, the object of working up this first reaction mixture in three further process steps is to recover the silicon nanoparticles.

The solvents proposed are various types of glycol ethers, possibly in a mixture with an apolar solvent.

Amorphous refers to solids whose molecular building blocks are not in crystal lattices, but rather arranged randomly. Amorphous silicon (a-Si) can be prepared substantially less expensively than crystalline silicon and thus constitutes a material for which there is a great demand.

According to the invention, the object specified is achieved in a process of the above type by using an apolar solvent as the solvent.